

What is claimed is:

1. A portable information terminal which comprises:  
a camera unit;  
a shutter button for said camera;  
5 a viewfinder of which optical axis is parallel to that of lens of  
said camera; and

a display unit for displaying information from transmission  
channels or image taken in by said camera,

- wherein said lens and said viewfinder on the front side of  
10 said portable information terminal are directed to a subject  
and said display unit is placed on the rear side.

2. The portable information terminal according to claim 1,  
wherein:

- said viewfinder is retractable; and  
15 said viewfinder is positioned at an upper corner of the  
information terminal, while said shutter button is positioned at  
the another upper corner.

3. A portable information terminal which comprises:  
a camera unit;  
20 a shutter button for said camera;  
a viewfinder of which optical axis is parallel to that of lens of  
said camera;

a housing for said camera and said viewfinder; and  
a pair of flat cases which pivots through a hinge,

- 25 wherein:

at least one of said cases is equipped with a display unit for  
displaying information from transmission channels or image  
taken in by said camera; and

said hinge is equipped with said housing.

4. The portable information terminal according to claim 3, wherein said viewfinder is positioned at an upper corner of the information terminal, while said shutter button is positioned at the another upper corner.

5 5. The portable information terminal according to claim 3, wherein said viewfinder is retractable into said housing.

~~6.~~ 6. The portable information terminal which comprises:

a camera unit;

a shutter button for said camera; and

10 a terminal operation button for operating said portable information terminal,

wherein said terminal operation button acts as said shutter button.

7. The portable information terminal with camera  
15 according to claim 6, which further comprises:

a viewfinder of which optical axis is parallel to that of lens of said camera;

a housing for said camera and said viewfinder; and

a pair of flat cases which pivots through a hinge,

20 wherein:

at least one of said cases is equipped with a display unit for displaying information from transmission channels or image taken in by said camera; and

said hinge is equipped with said housing.

25 8. The portable information terminal according to claim 6, wherein said terminal operation button is a scroll button related to said display unit.

9. The portable information terminal according to claim 8, said scroll button has a vertically pressing function, and the

function is caused to correspond to the function of the operation button for said shutter.

10. The portable information terminal according to claim 6, wherein said terminal operation button functions as said shutter button, by function mode switching.

11. The portable information terminal according to claim 10, wherein said terminal operation button and said shutter button are positioned on different surfaces of said portable information terminal.

12. The portable information terminal according to claim 7, wherein:

said terminal operation button is positioned on a surface equipped with said display unit; and

said shutter button is positioned on another surface perpendicular to said surface having a display unit.

13. A portable information terminal which comprises:

a camera unit;

a housing for said camera; and

a pair of flat cases which pivots through a hinge,

wherein:

each of said cases is equipped with a display unit for displaying information from transmission channels or image taken in by said camera;

said hinge is equipped with said housing;

an optical axis of lens of said camera is perpendicular to an axis of said hinge; and

said cases units face outside in a folded state.

14. A portable information terminal which comprises:

a camera unit;

a housing for said camera; and  
a pair of flat cases which pivots through a hinge,  
wherein:

each of said cases is equipped with a display unit for  
5 displaying information from transmission channels or image  
taken in by said camera;

said hinge is equipped with said housing;

an optical axis of lens of said camera is perpendicular to an  
axis of said hinge; and

10 said hinge has a structure in which said cases are pivoted by  
two shafts parallel to the axis of said housing; and

said display units face inside said information terminal body  
in a folded state and they face outside said information  
terminal in an unfolded state.

15 15. The portable information terminal according to claim  
13, wherein one of said display units faces a subject and  
displays a mirror image of an image as taken in by said  
camera.

16. The portable information terminal according to claim  
20 14, wherein one of said display units faces a subject and  
displays a mirror image of an image as taken in by said  
camera.

17. A portable information terminal according to claim 13,  
wherein said display units are positioned such that the cases  
25 are opposite to each other when said display units are folded,  
while they face the same side when said display units are  
unfolded at 180°.

18. A portable information terminal according to claim 14,  
wherein said display units are positioned such that the cases

are opposite to each other when said display units are folded, while they face the same side when said display units are unfolded at 180°.

19. The portable information terminal according to claim  
5 14, wherein said housing is rotated by 360° so as to locate said display units inside or outside said information terminal in a folded state, while said housing is rotated so as to locate said display units on the same side in an unfolded state.

20. A portable information terminal which comprises:  
10 a camera unit;  
two display units, one of which is used for viewing an image taken in by said camera;

21. The portable information terminal according to claim  
15 20, which the other display unit is opposite to to said one of said two display units, and is used to be visually recognized from a subject side.

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